

## **PHD NSWC Public Affairs Office**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Students Experience Engineering First Hand at NAVSEA Port Hueneme during National Engineers Week 2001**

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Parachutes, boxes with wings, and landing platforms were among the concoctions students made last week at NAVSEA Port Hueneme during an engineering event held in celebration of National Engineers Week 2001. Competition was fierce among the 80 students from local junior high schools that competed for the grand prize of a ride aboard USS CORONADO (AGF 11) from the Port of Los Angeles to Port Hueneme in April.

Students were able to test their math and science skills as they designed and built a creative container that prevented an egg from breaking when dropped 18 feet. Five students from each of the participating 16 junior high schools partnered with a NAVSEA engineer who assisted the students in designing their project. The teams were given 50 minutes to create a container out of materials such as Popsicle sticks, balloons, cloth, Styrofoam, cardboard, glue, and paper that would make a quick and accurate landing while protecting the valuable cargo inside.

"The students did all the brainstorming and creative design, we just helped them to understand how to utilize their math and science skills when building their projects," said

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NAVSEA Port Hueneme engineer Bob Passey. “We also guided them with some basic engineering concepts that helped to answer a lot of their questions.”

Throughout the day, students also toured NAVSEA Port Hueneme engineering facilities and assets including the Navy’s Self Defense Test Ship, a remote controlled test ship, and the Missile and Launcher Training Facility where they had the opportunity to observe deactivated missiles and understand how rocket powered technology works.

NAVSEA Port Hueneme engineers also challenged the students with engineering questions and science demonstrations. “Did you know that static electricity is just a build up of electrons?” asked one engineer. “How many lemons does it take to run a car battery?” asked another engineer. “I don’t exactly know either,” said NAVSEA Port Hueneme engineer Rae Bissell to the students. “But you’d spend a whole lot of money on lemons, I can tell you that.”

Command leadership including Executive Director, Charlie Giacchi, Chief Engineer, CAPT Barney Cramp and Chief of Staff, CDR Kevin Carey acted as judges during the egg drop competition. Judging criteria included the amount of time it took for the egg to reach the target, distance from the resting point to the target, creativity of design, teamwork, and whether the egg broke. Fourteen of the 16 eggs remained intact as the judges examined and opened every project after each egg drop.

The five students who earned the honor of riding the Navy ship to Port Hueneme will receive demonstrations of state-of-the-art information technology during their transit aboard CORONADO. The demonstrations will showcase some of the Navy’s career opportunities to potential engineers. Second and third place prizes were donated by

local chapters of the American Society of Naval Engineers and the International Society of Logistics Engineers and included gift certificates to Borders Books.

The day-long event was well received by parents, teachers, counselors, and many students who inquired whether the command would do this event again next year. The event provided an opportunity for NAVSEA Port Hueneme to further its mission of community outreach while offering students practical applications of engineering techniques, which will bring math and science to life.

Located at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, NAVSEA Port Hueneme, a component of the Naval Sea Systems Command, is the Navy's premier in-service engineering and logistics center and has been in existence for 36 years. The command focuses on supporting the fleet while ships are operational, that is, while they are in-service. The Division provides test and evaluation, in-service engineering, and integrated logistics support for weapon systems installed in the United States Navy fleet, United States Coast Guard fleet, and many foreign Navy fleets.

For further information contact the NAVSEA Port Hueneme Public Affairs Office at 805-228-6150.

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